



## NEWS RELEASE

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### University Investigates Theft of Documents with Student Information

WARRENSBURG, MO (June 26, 2009) – The University of Central Missouri announced today that it is taking steps to notify students of a theft involving two paper documents that included students' personal information. Letters are being sent by the university's Office of Student Affairs outlining steps the students who may be affected can take to protect themselves from potential illegal use of information included in the documents.

The two paper computer reports of enrolled students for the summer of 2005 and the summer of 2006 included the names, social security numbers, dates of birth, then addresses and phone numbers of students who attended UCM during those terms. Only paper documents were stolen, and no online records were breached.

The initial investigation of this matter has revealed that the information from the reports was possibly used for criminal purposes during the first two weeks of June. It appears that at least seven individuals listed in the reports may have had their personal information used. Each of these individuals has already been contacted by law enforcement personnel. Potential fraudulent uses include student loan applications, credit and debit card applications, and the opening of bank accounts.

UCM learned about the theft on June 19, following the arrest of an individual and related seizure of the reports by the Warrensburg Police Department. The university began the notification process after gaining full access to the reports on June 23. The institution's Department of Public Safety is continuing to investigate the matter in cooperation with the WPD and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"We are very concerned about this situation, and are committed to safeguarding student information," said

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Richard C. Morrell, vice president for student affairs. “This is a situation that involves someone who removed paper documents with private information from an office without knowledge of others in the office. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this will cause students, and will examine all possible ways we can help prevent something like this from ever reoccurring.”

The university is notifying approximately 7,000 students who are listed in the reports. To further assist with the communication process, UCM has established a web site at [www.ucmo.edu/identityprotection](http://www.ucmo.edu/identityprotection) providing general information about what students can do to protect themselves from identity theft. This includes a “fraud alert” which lets their creditors know to watch for unusual or suspicious activity in their accounts, such as someone trying to acquire a credit card in their name. Students who were enrolled at UCM during the summers of 2005 and 2006 and who have questions are encouraged to call the toll-free, 24-hour telephone number, 866-223-1695, which has been established in cooperation with the university’s Department of Public Safety.

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